

# Ballona Scientific Advisory Committee Objectives and General Procedural Guidelines

## Objectives

The SAC may be asked to provide scientific advice on numerous issues during development of the Ballona wetlands restoration plan. However, the primary objective of the SAC is to assist the consultant team and the public in addressing the following priority issues:

1. Guidance on additional data collection and modeling (if necessary)
  - a. Water quality and hydrodynamic modeling
  - b. Biological resources
  - c. Determination of scientific uncertainties related to Ballona restoration
2. Advice on science-based objectives for restoration
3. Advice on science-based criteria for evaluating alternatives
  - a. Development of criteria
  - b. Application of criteria toward recommendation(s) regarding project alternatives
4. Review and advice on restoration alternatives
  - a. Incorporation of best available science
  - b. Consideration of science-based testing of uncertainties
5. Advice on development of adaptive management, monitoring and assessment program
  - a. Water quality
  - b. Hydrology and physical process
  - c. Biological resources
6. Encouragement of outside scientists to conduct research in the Ballona Ecosystem related to the Ballona Wetlands restoration.

## Operational process

Given the importance of this project and the need to develop a consensus on issues, our face-to-face meetings will be most productive if we have opportunity to discuss issues and review draft materials in advance of our meeting. Therefore, we propose the following general operating procedures:

- Information or questions related to the five primary issue areas can be circulated directly to the SAC by the SCC project manager, or any SAC member using the [BallonaSAC@sccwrp.org](mailto:BallonaSAC@sccwrp.org) email list.
- The entire SAC and the SCC project manager should be copied on all email discussion.
- As key junctures of the discussion are identified, the SAC co-chairs will facilitate conference calls to allow direct dialogue among the SAC, PWA, SCC and other relevant individuals.
- Final decisions on the primary issue areas will not be made via email or conference calls. These forums are to allow discussion only. All decisions will be made during SAC meetings, which are open to the public. The goal is to achieve consensus of the SAC members on recommendations to the PMT. In the event that a consensus cannot be achieved, the SAC members shall vote, with a 2/3

majority being required for an official recommendation to be made. Dissenting members of the SAC may submit a Minority Opinion(s), if desired. If a 2/3 majority opinion cannot be reached, the SAC shall provide the PMT with multiple alternative recommendations with a rationale for the value of each.

- To ensure transparency of the discussion process, all issues discussed via email or conference call will be summarized by SCC staff, reviewed by the SAC co-chairs, and posted to the Ballona wetlands restoration working group and agency advisors. Comments or questions from the public on issues being discussed by the SAC are welcome but should only be submitted to the SCC project manager.

Additional issues may arise from the working group or the project management team that the SAC may want to (or be requested to) address. When such issues arise they should be forwarded to the SAC co-chairs with a clear statement of the issue or question that is being asked of the SAC. The co-chairs will make an initial assessment of whether the issue is appropriate for SAC consideration, and if it is, will forward it to the SAC for initial email discussion. In addition, subcommittees composed of SAC members or additional members with expertise in specific areas needed may be appointed from time to time. One of the SAC co-chairs will be a member of each subcommittee as either a participant or ex-officio member.